



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Kenneth D. Shoji
Public Relations Manager,
San Manuel Band of Mission Indians
909.864.8933 x 3154
kshoji@sanmanuel-nsn.gov

Contact: Craig Petinak
Director, Marketing & PR,
San Bernardino Valley College
909.384.8978
cpetinak@valleycollege.edu

**SAN MANUEL GIVES \$200,000 TO SBVC FOUNDATION TO FUND
VALLEY-BOUND COMMITMENT IN 2010-2011**

***Gift Will Expand Valley-Bound Commitment That Provides
First Year of College For Free***

San Bernardino, CA--The San Bernardino Valley College Foundation received a gift of \$200,000 from San Manuel Band of Mission Indians to help fund the 2010-2011 Valley-Bound Commitment. The Valley-Bound Commitment program provides a free college education to eligible high school students from the district's feeder high schools (including picking up the cost of textbooks, parking, student fees and more).

In its second year, there are currently 89 students participating in Valley-Bound. This is an increase of 53 students from the first year and was accomplished with a \$150,000 donation from San Manuel last year. The goal for 2010-2011 is to fund 150 students for this unique program.

In addition to providing access to higher education, the program is designed to ensure student success:

- Students and their parents are asked to attend an orientation session to cover expectations
- Students attend classes as a cohort, providing a built-in support system
- Students attend career fairs or make college visits to focus on their future
- Students complete Student Development courses to ensure seamless transition into college
- Students perform community service (25 hours over 2 semesters)

"We are so thankful for the support of San Manuel for Valley-Bound Commitment," said Dr. Debra Daniels, President of San Bernardino Valley College. "Increasing the college-going rate in our region is one of our goals and Valley-Bound helps us achieve that goal."

-MORE-

The tribe has chosen to partner with groups and organizations that positively impact the greater community, including groups that specialize in health care, education, social services, Native American education and those that work with neighborhoods to enhance the quality of life.

“Now more than ever we know there are greater demands on non-profits to provide services,” said James Ramos, Chairman of the San Manuel Band of Serrano Mission Indians. “Despite the current economic downturn we hope our support will motivate others to get involved as well.”

About the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians

The San Manuel Band of Serrano Mission Indians is a federally recognized American Indian tribe located near the city of Highland, Calif. The Serrano Indians are the indigenous people of the San Bernardino highlands, passes, valleys and mountains who share a common language and culture. The San Manuel reservation was established in 1891 and recognized as sovereign nation with the right of self-government. Since time immemorial, the San Manuel tribal community has endured change and hardship. Amidst these challenges the tribe continued to maintain its unique form of governance. Like other governments it seeks to provide a better quality of life for its citizens by building infrastructure, maintaining civil services and promoting social, economic and cultural development. Today San Manuel tribal government oversees many governmental units including the departments of fire, public safety, education and environment.

###